

# THE COMMONWEALTH

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## Annual Meeting Board Of Trade

Officers and Directors Re-Elected by Acclamation—Reports Submitted and Passed—Other Projects Submitted

### NORFLEET SMITH RELECTED SECRETARY

With quiet assurance that they had done well during the past year—that the members were satisfied with the work accomplished by the close of the first anniversary of the Scotland Neck Board of Trade, which was celebrated last night by a goodly attendance, the officers submitted their report—giving the true facts of the years work, which by unanimous vote of the members was passed and ordered filed.

President Clark quietly epitomized the many items the officers had accomplished that did not appear in the report read by the secretary, but he stated that he was satisfied there had been much preparatory work done that would ultimately reap a harvest, and by carefully reviewing the many things that are brought to this body for its consent and co-operation he was assured that the Scotland Neck Board of Trade had become a necessary part of the civic life of the town.

Several proposed new fields of labor for the coming year were suggested, such as larger area, a County Board of Trade to work in conjunction with this body, an increased membership fee to cover greater activity and work, and the securing other manufacturing plants all of which were discussed fully by the members present, but which were finally left to the discretion of the officers and directors.

The next business was the election of the officers and directors, and by acclamation the same officers and directors were re-elected for the ensuing year.

Following the meeting of the members the president called a meeting of the directors for the purpose of electing a treasurer and a secretary.

Mr. Hugh Johnson was re-elected treasurer, and Mr. Norfleet Smith, secretary, with the provision that the secretary be allowed to appoint an assistant secretary to look after the affairs of the Board of Trade whenever he may be out of town.

The president intimated that he would take a few days before he would announce the several committees, and then only after he had been assured the members of the different committees would do the work assigned to them.

The report of the officers follows:

To The Directors and Members

The Scotland Neck Board of Trade really came into being on the night of February 9th, when an initial meeting of citizens was held in the Directors room of the Scotland Neck Bank to hear Mr. Maull of the Atlantic Coast Line, though the permanent organization was not completed until the night of February 24th, when the present officers and directors were elected.

This organization has filled a long felt want in the community, serving as it now does as a clearing house of the public desires and wants of our citizens.

Completing as this meeting does, the first cycle of its existence, I wish to make as nearly as possible a full report of our work, and a few recommendations. While it is not possible to give in detail all of the deliberations of the Board of Directors, a general summary will suffice.

Following the completion of organization, election of officers, adoption of a constitution and by laws, the chairman of committees to head each department were appointed. All of this entailed considerable work and numerous meetings. Right here I wish to state that neither the Chairman of these Committees, nor the members themselves, have been at all active, and the entire work of the organization has devolved upon the directors as a whole. This should not be. There should be a specialization of work under each committee, frequent meetings should be held by each committee, and recommendations made to the Board of Directors for action. In this way, and in this way only can real work and results be accomplished.

The organization completed, after

discussion many subjects and projects it seemed the consensus of opinion that it should first begin by making our town more healthful, and a real pride to our citizens before we could go before the State and ask them to come among us for water works and sewerage was the answer. You well know the history of this undertaking and the real amount of work required to put it through. Of this we may well feel proud.

Following the successful completion of this undertaking the next subject was Trade Extension week and Community Fair. Owing to the construction work necessary to the installation of the water and sewerage system, and the deplorable condition of the streets, it was decided to defer this matter another year when it will be taken up and pushed to successful completion.

For some time a bridge over Roanoke River had been under discussion and many meetings were held in consideration of this subject. It was finally decided to hold a public meeting and ascertain the sentiment of the people and if they wanted the bridge to push it through with all dispatch. This meeting was held, at which it was decided to defer action until certain specific information could be obtained.

This matter is still in abeyance.

While this in brief covers the actual accomplishments of the Board of Trade it does not in the slightest degree convey an idea of the real work accomplished, nor the large amount of detail work of the secretary.

Owing to the purely nominal membership fee the organization has worked practically without funds, the total receipts being around \$125.00. Not one officer or member received directly or indirectly one cent for compensation.

There should be a complete re-organization with a very large increase in membership fee and a paid secretary for a part or the whole of his time. The good that can be accomplished by this organization as a town builder is beyond the imagination of the most sanguine or enthusiastic; but it means work, thought, planning and the hearty support of every member and the public generally. Its work is purely unselfish and should be given the greatest encouragement. More frequent meetings of the membership as a whole, at which some speaker of note should be secured to address them on some vital subject. Further would recommend the securing of a permanent office for the collection of data, and as a place to hold regular meetings, inclusion of farmers in largely extended area as members, establishment of a farmer's exchange, urge co-operative buying of pure-bred cattle and stock generally by farmers and co-operative marketing.

The advantage of this latter method has been fully demonstrated locally. The subject of improved streets in town should be taken up by the Board and pushed most vigorously and a determined effort made to establish and bring in more industries. These things can be done if the proper effort is put forth. Lastly I recommend that a committee be appointed looking to the organization of a "Greater Halifax Board of Trade" to be composed of similar organizations in every town of any size in Halifax county with the purpose of advertising to the whole country what old Halifax has to offer.

Respectfully submitted,  
NORFLEET S. SMITH,  
Secretary.

The Treasurer, Mr. Hugh Johnson, submitted a separate report as follows:

Receipts from members \$124.00, disbursements \$64.45, balance in the treasury \$59.55.

Thomas Dixon's "Fall of a Nation," at Palace March 6th, and 7th. Reserve your seats in advance. Matinees at 3 o'clock both days and only one show at night.

"The Secret Kingdom" the best serial ever produced begins at the Palace next Monday.

## News From The State Capitol

Cameron's Highway Bill's Passage Will Secure \$1,700,000 of Federal Aid

### FACTORY INSPECTION BILL INTRODUCED

RALEIGH, Feb. 22.—For some unexplained reason the Revenue bill, which the Senate received from the House and has been working on this week does not contain the amendment of Speaker Murphy designed to prohibit extortionate prices for rooms in hotels when more than one person occupy the same room especially.

The house adopted it but its author by permission withdrew it later. It is suggested that one of the reasons for its withdrawal was because of the opportunity it offered for some unscrupulous "travelers" to make a practice of doubling up whenever they went and thereby taking unfair advantage of hotel keepers. In that contingency, it was deemed wise to eliminate the Murphy provisions from the hotel tax and license feature of the measure.

#### Important New Measures

Among the more important bills presented in the legislature this week are the following, now pending in committees.

By Senator Gray of Forsyth (by request)—A bill to prohibit the issuing of coupons, etc., in packages of merchandise and other wares offered for sale in N. C.

By Representative Darden—Relative to the salaries of the county officers of Halifax county, also a bill relating to the graded schools of Weldon.

By Senator Gates of Cumberland—To amend acts of 1913 and 1915 Chapters 173 and 236 so as to increase the age limit for compulsory school attendance from 12 years to 14 years of age. Also a bill to require every person owning an automobile in N. C. to first secure a permit.

Senator Long has secured the passage by the Senate of his bill power. Provided, the electric company shall have acquired as much an orchard or a residence, if necessary to develop or extend a water-power. Provided, the electric company shall have acquired as much as 75 per cent or more of adjacent territory, and provided further, that such condemnation proceedings shall be before a jury which shall award the damages. The necessity for this measure was caused by the terms of the existing law which eliminates from condemnation all land on which orchards or residences were located. Upon urging Senator Long stated that it is not legalized by his measure to interfere with any cemetery or private "grave-yard."

#### Advertising Bill's Condition

The bill to fix the legal rate for printing legal advertising, in which the newspaper publishers of the state are interested, and which has been in the legislative hospital following assaults upon it by certain lawyer-Senators everytime it showed its head, may yet escape with its life.

After another long sleep in the Committee on the judiciary No. 2. (of which Person of Franklin is chairman and who is one of the bills loudest opponents) it is expected to get before the Senate again in a few days. Two amendments are pending—one to legalize the posting of the legal notices if the county papers refuse to print them at the rate named and one (by Long of Alamance) to reduce the figures from 6 and 4 cents to 4 and 2 cents for first insertion and each following insertion respectively. If the bill in its proper shape ever gets to a vote it will pass the Senate. But the patient is not out of danger.

#### Auto Tax and Highway Maintenance

The most protracted debate of the week was indulged in Wednesday when Senator Cameron's bill to apply the license tax on automobiles principally to the main highways of the State, and so drafted as to comply with the conditions by which N. C., will secure \$1,700,000 in aid of public highway building and maintenance from the U. S. government.

Senator Cameron is one of the class of men of large business affairs who occasionally come to the legislature for some good reason by which they can best serve the interests to the detriment of their own private affairs and certainly not to their pecuniary advantage. Col. Cameron has devoted so much thought and time to this and kindred subjects that he is far and away the best posted man in this legislature and probably in the state and therefore competent to advise his co-laborers in the law-making body. He fully demonstrated this fact in handling himself during the volley of questions fired at him while he spoke to his measure—although he declared in disgust at one point that he was unable to percolate the intelligence of Person of Franklin. The bill found final reading by a large majority, 35 to 10, and was sent to the House for concurrence.

#### Legislature Notes

Mutterings of distant thunder in the zones of "bone-dry" prohibition and more child labor and mill inspection are heard, but there is no well defined attempt on the part of the law-makers to fall over each other in furthering either proposition.

However if the recommendations of Commissioner of Labor and Printing Shipman, as conveyed to the legislature in a message by Gov. Bickett today, are heeded the state can and ought to do its own "factory inspecting" (as most other progressive states do) instead of delegating it to the federal government.

The attempt made Wednesday afternoon to kill the Pollock anti-miscegenation bill which passed the Senate with only one dissenting vote two weeks ago, was a feature, and it precipitated a warm debate. Jones of Buncombe, Linn of Rowan, Warren, of Beaufort,

## England's Premier Calls For Sacrifice

Lloyd George Recommends Curtailment of Shipping of Anything Except Essentials

### U. S. WILL NOT PROVIDE GUNNERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—"If the navy department will furnish defensive guns and gunners the American line will keep ships running across the Atlantic regardless of the submarine peril" said Mr. Franklin, president of the steamship line to Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, today.

There are, however no indications that the navy will furnish either guns or gunners, as the administration feels the danger of putting United States munitions and men upon merchant ships for in case of accident, or mistake, this should precipitate actual warfare it would leave this government in a peculiar predicament. The president's determination being to put the responsibility for any declaration of war upon the shoulders of Germany.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—Premier Lloyd George in his long awaited speech, and for which the German Chancellor, Von Bethwigg has been waiting to reply, stated today that it was necessary to suspend all non-essential imports to relieve the shortage in tonnage.

"The gravest measures will be necessary" he said "otherwise there will be disaster to the empire. We must send ships that will bear iron ore at all costs. It will mean enormous sacrifices by the British navy."

No move was made here today in the United States and the Central powers still were that tomorrow's cabinet meeting would be followed by arrangements for the President to address Congress with a request for authority to deal with any emergency that may arise after adjournment.

#### Probable Break With Austria

There virtually is no hope here of a favorable reply to the memorandum recently presented to the Austrian foreign office asking whether the pledges concerning submarine warfare given the United States in the Ancona and Persia cases were still in effect. An answer that will make severance of diplomatic relations with Austria inevitable is expected at any time.

#### Reichstag Convenes

LONDON, Feb. 22.—Telegraphing from Amsterdam Reuters correspondent says the German Reichstag opened today with a speech by the president of the chamber, Dr. Johannes Kaempf. In his address Dr. Kaempf declared that Germany and her allies now were taking refuge in a weapon "which would be employed without restriction until our aim in the war, namely, the defense of the independence and freedom of our countries, is obtained."

#### Nine Vessels Yesterday Were Reported Sunk

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The latest reports from London and Paris show that nine more vessels of an aggregate tonnage of more than 21,000 have been sent to the bottom by submarines or mines. The vessels sunk were four British steamers and a trawler, one Russian, one Swedish, one Dutch and one Norwegian steamer. The Swedish steamer had several Americans on board. All of them and the remainder of the crew were rescued.

#### PAY UP WEEK IS A NATIONAL EVENT

Not confined to this town, nor to any one class which makes it the more interesting and useful. Scotland Neck inaugurated this pay up week because it was the right thing to do, and this town is always ready to fall in line with any good movement. The present celebration of this striking feature has caused a great wave of good business throughout the country for during the week millions of dollars have changed hands in the United States to the benefit of everybody in the communities which observe this patriotic campaign.

It is easy for a little money to build up a great deal of prosperity when it is kept moving in legitimate channels that the beneficial results of National Pay Up Week are certain to be felt far and wide.

During the remainder of the week let everyone plan to clean off the slate all obligations and enter in to the coming season prepared to do better than they have ever done before.

Turner of Iredell and others thought it a bad law—in its effects on the lives and fortunes of some citizens who are declared "white" under the existing law, but will become illegitimate under the new law—if it could be retroactive. The Pollock bill didn't stop at the third generation, but under the limit "a trace, however remote" of negro blood. The Senate voted to kill the bill 24 to 22.